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Date: August 12, 2004

To: Wisconsin Physicians
Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners
Other clinicians
Local Health Departments

From: Mark Wegner, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section

Re: Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

I am asking for your assistance in elimination of tuberculosis in Wisconsin and advising you of resources available to you for this effort.

The most recent statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Thoracic Society recommend targeted tuberculin testing among groups at high risk for developing TB and consideration of treatment for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) irrespective of age.

Nine months of isoniazid is now the standard regimen for the treatment of LTBI. Whenever possible, we would prefer patients with LTBI complete a full 9-month course (270 daily doses). For individuals unable to complete the full 9-month course due to side effects, inconsistent adherence or loss to follow-up, a 6-month regimen (180 daily doses) will provide substantial protection and has been shown to be superior to placebo.

Medications to treat LTBI may be obtained at no cost through the Tuberculosis Program and your local health department by submitting an Initial Request for Medication (DPH 4000)—available online at the following URL:

http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph_bcd/TB/Resources/forms.htm

Additional guidance for tuberculin testing and LTBI treatment, including additional treatment alternatives, are found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention document Targeted tuberculin testing and treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. [MMWR 2000;49(No. RR-6)]. You may download a copy online at the following URL:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/mmwrhtml/Maj_guide/Testing.htm

If you have further questions, your local health department has additional resources or you may reach the Tuberculosis Program by calling 608/266-9692 or visiting the following URL:

http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph_bcd/TB

Thank you for your commitment to tuberculosis elimination in Wisconsin.